

disagreeable hands that I ever had Any thing to do with and its Nothing else but their Being protected I will come to a close for I am out Off order to write the Meat is out and we have to kill fresh Meat to eat or do without

Yours truly

From John D. Maclean

UNC

Gaston, N. Carolina,
July 9th., 1857.

I am sorry to say to you there has been a difficulty with your negroes & John C. Burton. The difficulty was with Jack, Ann & Burton. I have understood that Burton told Jack he would go up to the Glenn place & whip Ann & return and whip him. Jack followed behind & I have understood prevented Burton from whipping Ann. Burton says Jack threatened his life, which Burton wrote to me on Saturday evening which was the day of the difficulty & also wrote to me that he had prepared himself for Jack, but would not say what he would do. Jack came to my House on Saturday evening about dark. I made him stay all night, wrote for Burton to come & see me on next day, he did not come. I have understood had men there with Guns to take him. I concluded it would be better for Jack not to go home untill Burton's passion would abate. I would have went down on next morning, but 7 or 8 of my family is down in flux, some of them is very bad.

Jack was here on last night but not here now but I think I can get him at any time. I had him at work on yesterday & wrote to Burton he could get him by coming up for him, he has not come yet. Burton is too great a Coward to be amongst your Negroes he's ruining the characture of your Negroes by getting a Volunteer Company to come from [blotted and illegible] to assist in taking them. He has not come yet to see me. I thought it would be the best for Jack not to go Home untill he comes to see me or I could go down with him.

Please write to me immediately & Instruct me what to do I have understood Burton says he will kill him if he stays there but only rumor. There is no doubt Jack has behaved badly. Some sickness among your Negroes but not serious. I think your farm is in good